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A Coloring Book Story About

Mary & Johnny's

Letters to their Grandparents

From the Denver Division
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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P1.2:

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

United States Postal Service
Field Division

OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER/POSTMASTER
DENVER, COLORADO 80202-9998

Dear Friend,

The U.S. Postal Service delivers to everyone in our great country. Every time you drop something "in the mail" you can be confident that it will be processed and delivered promptly, at a reasonable cost.

I am happy you took time to visit us. This coloring book is our gift to you. It will show you the many steps involved in "how your letter gets there" from the moment you drop it in a collection box to its final delivery.

Remember that writing letters is an important skill. Letters allow everyone to keep in touch with friends, grandparents and other loved ones. Unlike the telephone, letters are a permanent record of your thoughts and feelings—and they are like giving someone a gift—a small part of yourself. They record a lifetime of memories.

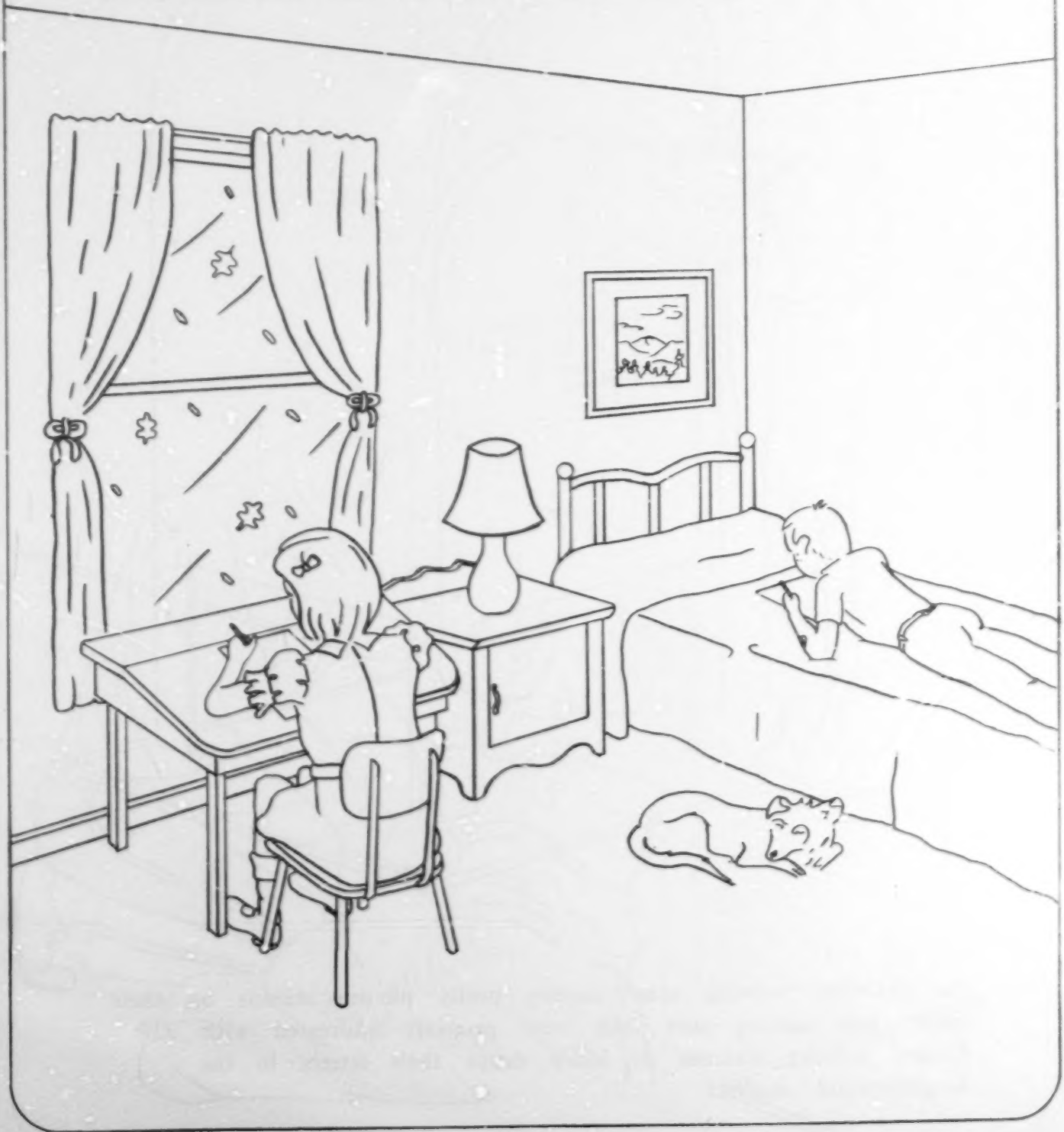
I hope you enjoy this coloring book. It comes with the best wishes of thousands of postal people who work for you every day of the year. People who strongly believe that when you want to reach someone . . . WRITE.

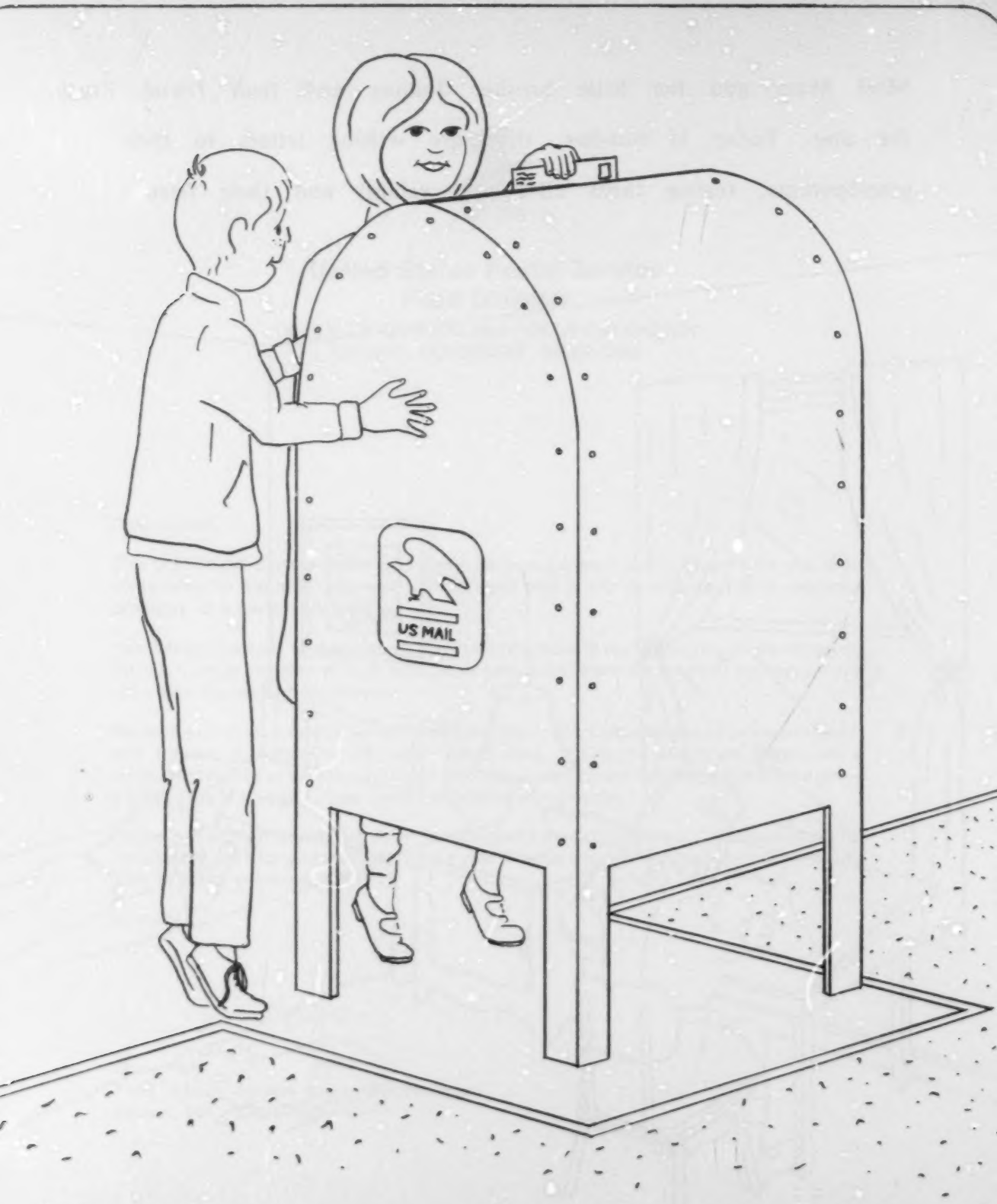
Sincerely,

G. W. Hoge

Gene Hoge
Field Division General Manager/Postmaster
Denver, CO 80202-9998

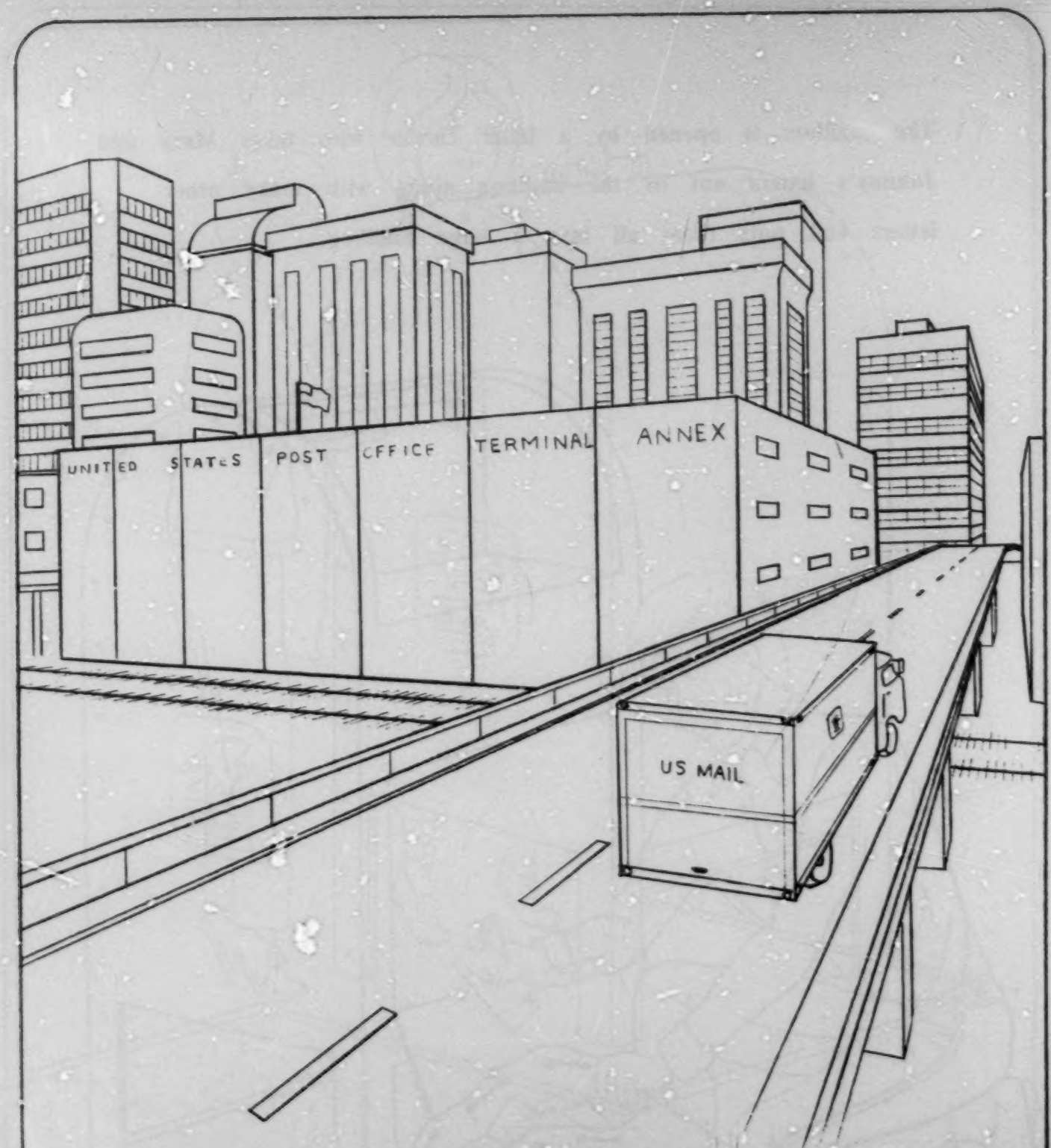
Meet Mary and her little brother Johnny and their friend Rusty, the dog. Today is Sunday, they are writing letters to their grandparents, telling them all about school and their friends.



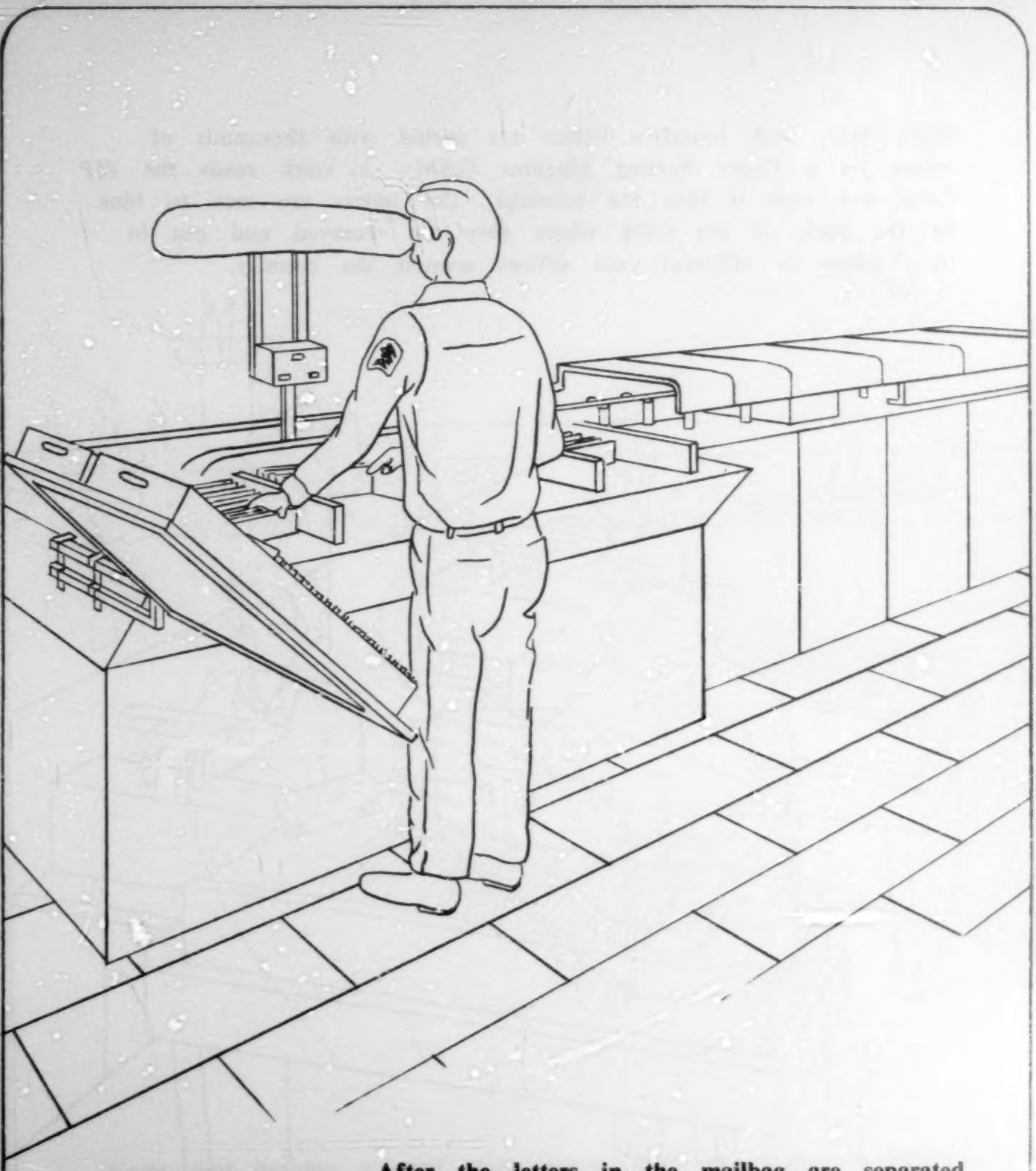


On Monday morning after putting pretty picture stamps on their letters and making sure they were properly addressed with ZIP Codes, Johnny watches as Mary drops their letters in the neighborhood mailbox.

The mailbox is opened by a letter carrier who takes Mary and Johnny's letters out of the mailbox along with many other letters and puts them all into a large mailbag.

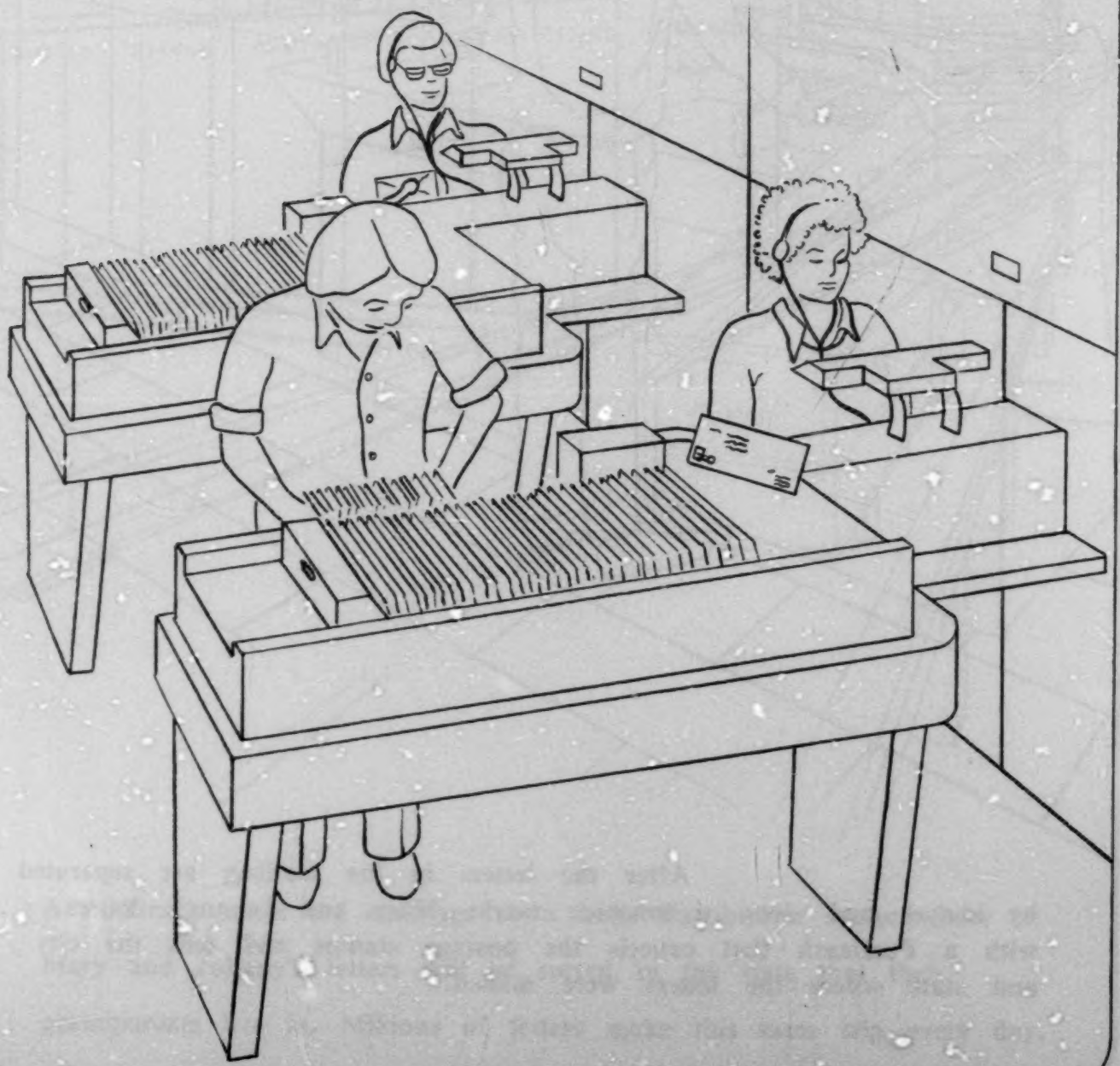


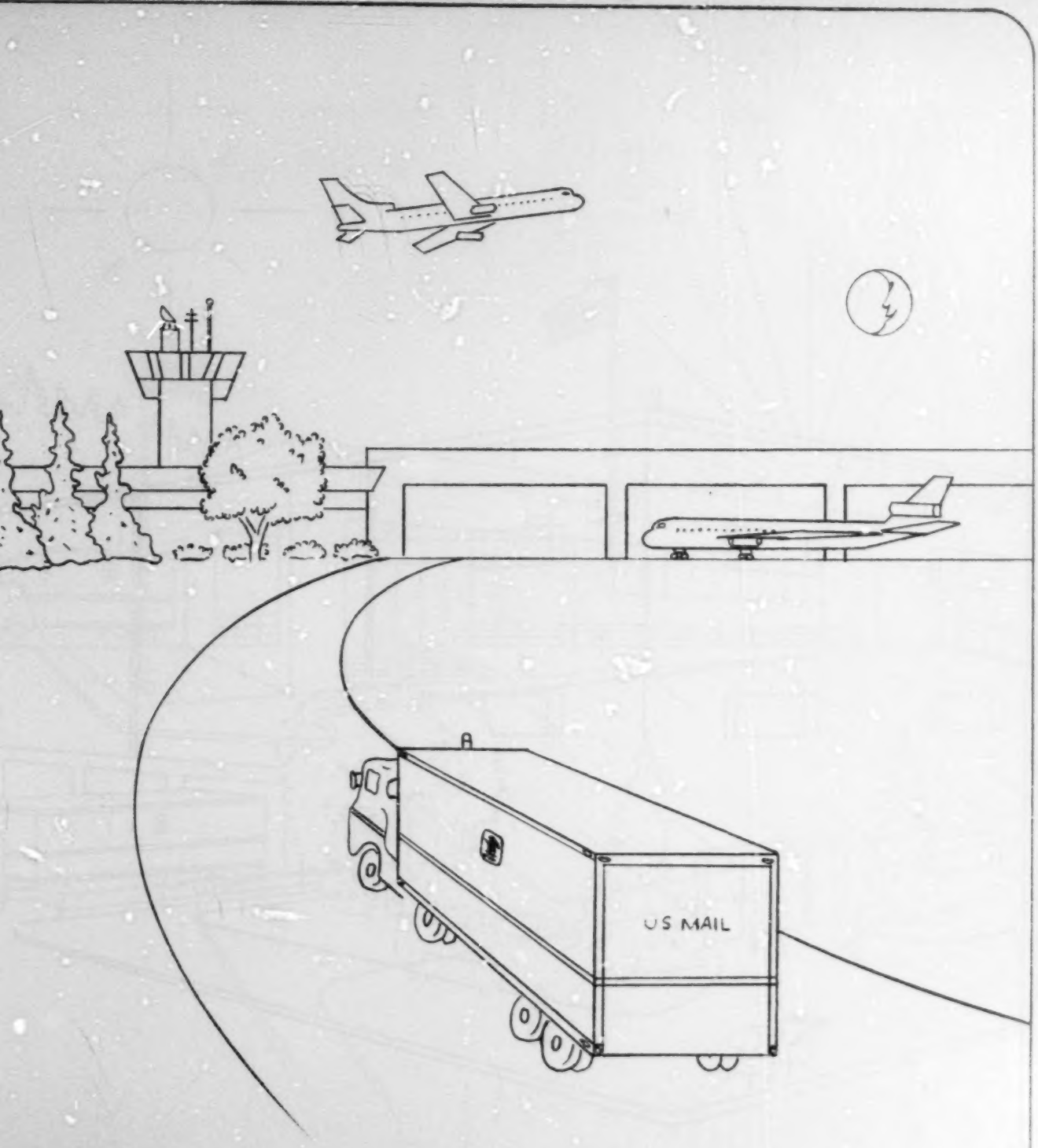
A mailtruck takes the mailbags to a large distribution center where Mary and Johnny's letters will be sorted to the state that their grandparents live in. Millions of letters make this same trip every day.



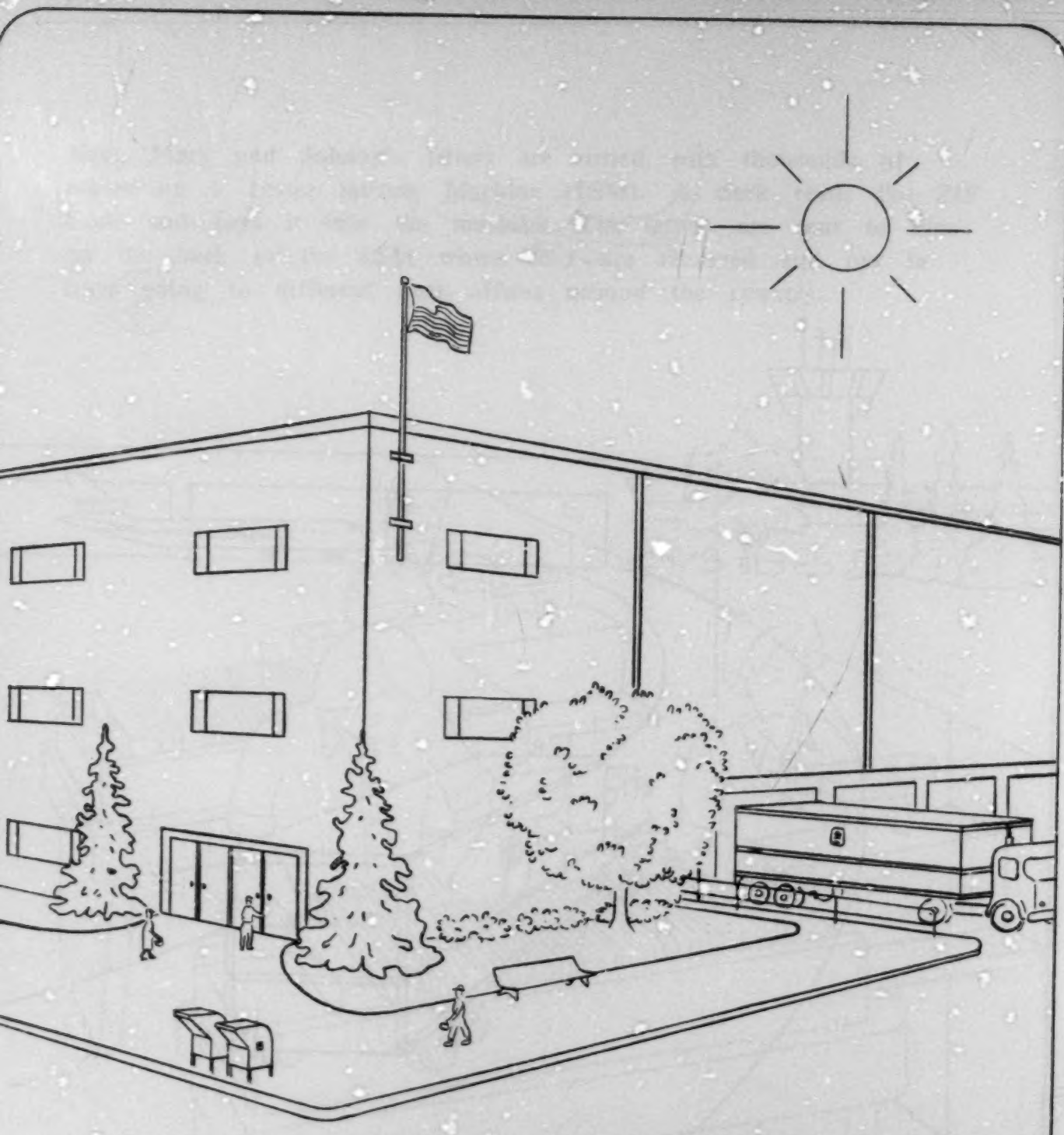
After the letters in the mailbag are separated by shapes and sizes, a machine marks Mary and Johnny's letters with a Postmark that cancels the postage stamps and tells the city and state where the letters were mailed.

Next, Mary and Johnny's letters are sorted with thousands of others on a Letter Sorting Machine (LSM). A clerk reads the ZIP Code and keys it into the machine. The letters are sent to bins on the back of the LSM where they are removed and put in trays going to different post offices around the country.

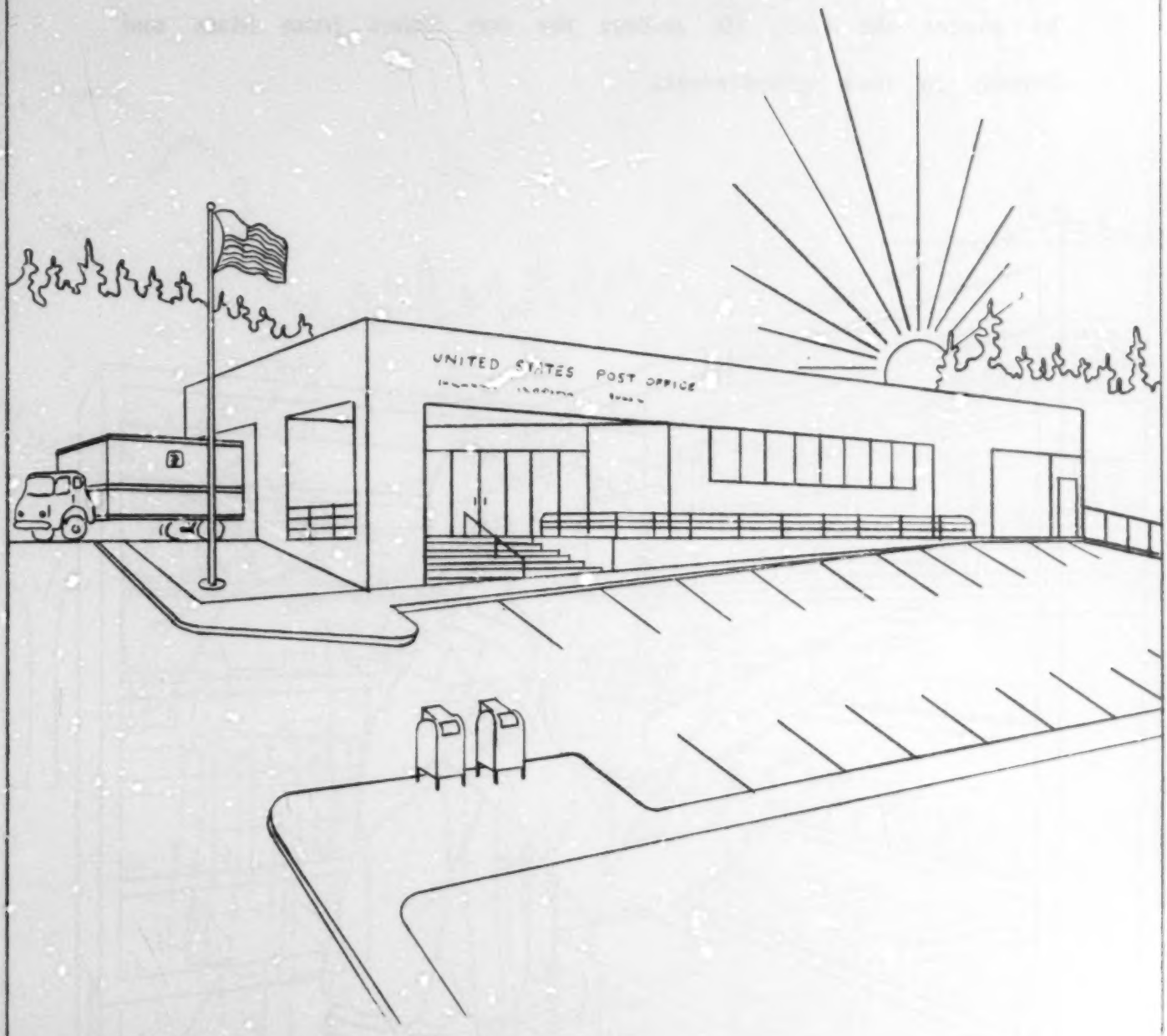




Early that evening a mail truck takes Mary and Johnny's letters and thousands of others to the airport. They are put on an airplane on its way to their grandparent's home state. Mail and packages are sent by airplane and are delivered in one to three days.



After the airplane lands, the mail is taken to another large distribution center. Here Mary and Johnny's letters are again sorted to be sent to their grandparent's home town.

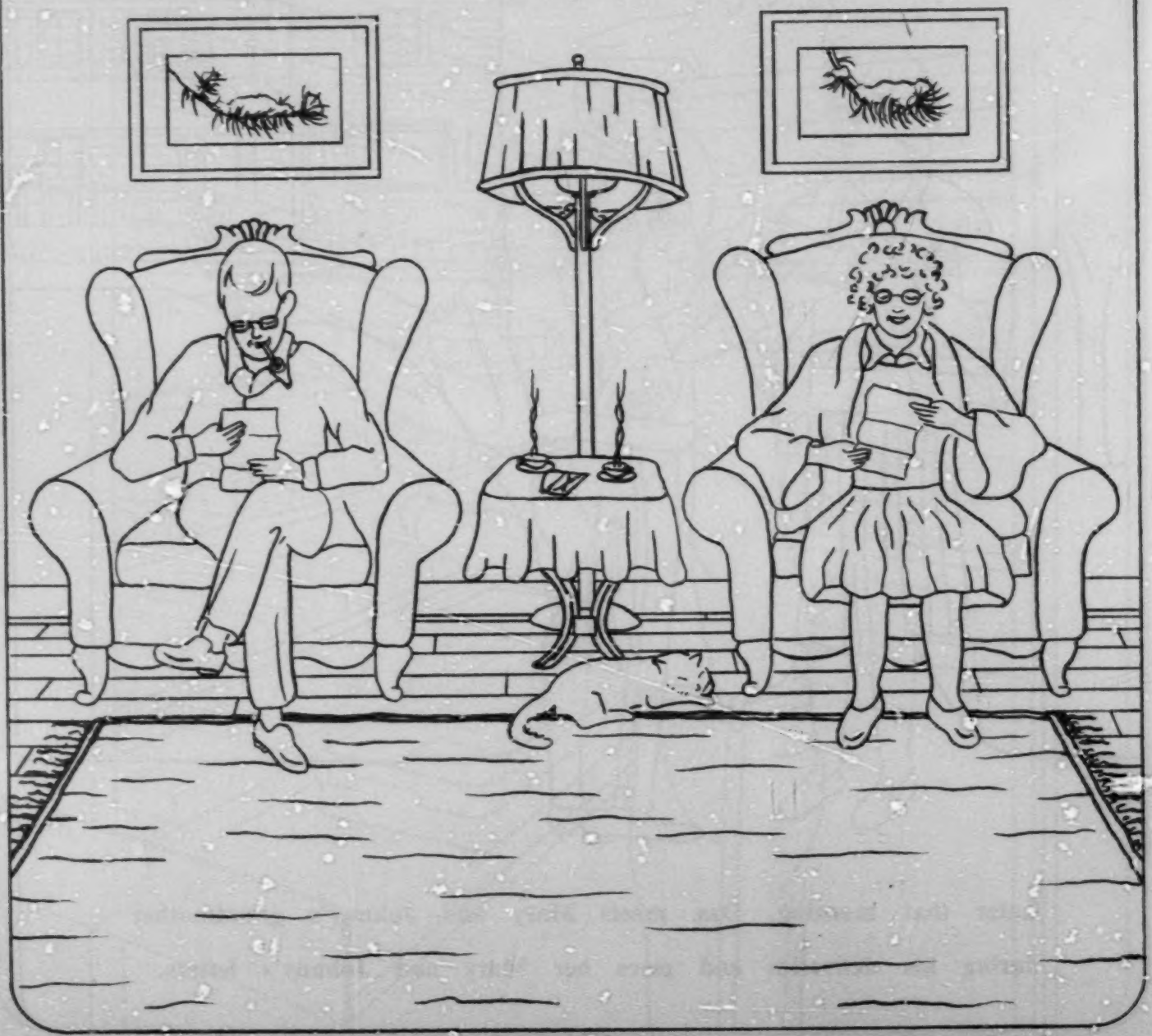


Very early on Wednesday morning, Mary and Johnny's letters and thousands of others are taken to the post office in their grandparent's home town.

Early that same morning, the letter carrier, Dan, starts his work by sorting the mail. He notices the two letters from Mary and Johnny to their grandparents.

Later that morning, Dan meets Mary and Johnny's grandmother during his deliveries and gives her Mary and Johnny's letters.

Grandfather and Grandmother sit in their chairs reading their letters from Mary and Johhny.



This, the fifth 'LOVE' stamp by the Postal Service was issued in 1986. Other 'LOVE' stamps have been issued in 1973, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1987 and 1988, each with a different design. The 'LOVE' stamp is popular for letter writing and sending greeting cards.

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WHAT ARE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN STAMP CLUBS?

The United States Postal Service began a stamp club program in elementary schools in 1974-75. Its purpose was to introduce third thru seventh grade students to the educational and enjoyable hobby of stamp collecting. Various stamp club materials, a monthly newsletter, and special student-involvement projects are distributed to these stamp clubs free-of-charge by the Postal Service. There are approximately 600 clubs in the Denver area.

Do you have a Ben Franklin stamp club at your school or community? If not, would you like to start one?

Call 791-1005 or write your Postmaster for information.

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